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From: PHILIP E. LAUNAI

27 May 1959

To: CASE OFFICER

Subject: Mr. ALEKSANDER ROMANOVICH SITNIKOV, second secretary of the
Byelorussian Mission to the United Nations
See Reports # 8 & 9

Source: 1. Meeting with Mr. SITNIKOV on 12 May 1959

2. Meeting with Mr. SITNIKOV on 25 May 1959

1. From New York Times of 11 May 1959 I learned that the "Bolshoi Ballet" will visit the American Stock Exchange, so I went there to see the "famous" Ballet, and to my astonishment I noticed among the dancers mixed up Mr. SITNIKOV. I watched him for some time but he noticed me and come to greet. At first glance it seemed to me he was confused and hesitant, but composed himself very quickly. I asked him what he was doing here and he answered that come to help to show things to the dancers.
I talked with him, and he show me some ballerinas etc. The dancers adressed to him with certain respect and only one man called him "Sasha" who seemed to me that he was not a dancer.
Mr. SITNIKOV promissed to me to call again when he will have available time.
2. Monday 25 May 1959, about 4:00 P.M. Mr. SITNIKOV called me and proposed a meeting and we agreed to meet at 6:45 P.M. in the Four Continents ~~store~~ Bookstore at Broadway and 10th Street N.Y.C. The Meeting took place as indicated. We than went to the Restaurant on Broadway vis a vis the Bookstore.
After having exchanged some plesantries I started to question him ~~about~~ referring to various articles in "Zvezda" and to the last census of the population, as published in "Pravda" of 10 May 1959. Mr. SITNIKOV defended his position he represents and he things the drop in Byeloru-ssian population is correctly justified. Then the topic of discussion was changed to national policy in BSSR, the fictitious status of BSSR as state, the russification, literature etc.etc. This meeting lasted till midnight.
From this conversation I learned:
That Mr. SITNIKOV give up the residence at West 80th Street, because his wife left for Summer to spend time at Soviet owned Farm in Long Island and he is living at the Mission 6 East 67th Street New York.
That Mr. SITNIKOV asked for going to Byelorussia for vacation, but his request was turned down.
He has shown me his documents "Diplomatic Identity Card" signed by the late Secretary John Foster Dulles and U.N. credentials. Here I discovered that the initial "R" instead of "P" stands for his father's name, as he told before. I asked what his father's name is, he answered ROMANOVICH. (Note: Mr. SITNIKOV ~~told~~ told that he has a brother - and it might be VASIL ROMANOVICH SITNIKOV an agent of MVD).

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That Mr. SITNIKOV found two books in New York Public Library: 1st, "Byelarus" by CVIKIEVICH and "Byelorussian Petitions in the Polish Sejm". That he reads "Bačkausčyna" and does not like it, and reads "Byelorussian Voice" published in Toronto, Canada by Siarhiey CHMARA, which he likes

Mr. SITNIKOV disclosed that his job is to read all newspapers and publications and to make reports. He also found that the telephone of Dr. John Stankievich is registered on name Maria Stankievich his wife. Mr. SITNIKOV also read in Congressional Records the addresses of Senators and Congressman on the occasion of 41st anniversary of Byelorussian Independence the 25th of March. He also asked why the Byelorussian newspaper do not appear anymore.

My personal observations and possible conclusions:

Mr. SITNIKOV is fully aware of security measures which might be on both parts the Soviet and American and is informed about all Soviet defections. He is very carefull to speak about details, and in turn likes to hear them.

That he learned many addresses of prominent Byelorussians including myself. The fact that I have received the paper "Za Viartanie na Radzimu" from East Berlin direct to my address, which never was published Mr. SITNIKOV learned from "Byelorussian Voice" that I am associated with the BNR and that my position is Secretary of Interior Affairs. Mr. SITNIKOV is heavy drinker and to match him is rather difficult, although I always go prepared for such events.

The facts of his being among "Bolshoi" dancers, and the newspaper from East Berlin I received, and the father's name indicates that he is associated with the Soviet Security Police, however, when he is under alcohol influence he speaks another language what puzzles me. For instance his praise of addresses of Senators and Congressmen, good opinion of Cvikievich book, admiration of Adamovich work, his concern about newspaper "Byelarus" why is not published and others.

Here I have question: What line I have to pursue at next meetings?

At the end of meeting he promised to call me again.

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